

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, starting at line 3 until line 23: please amend the “**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENTS/PATENT APPLICATIONS**” section as follows:

“**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENTS/PATENT APPLICATIONS**

*S. A/C
10-13-04*

The present U.S. Utility Patent Application claims priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to the following U.S. Provisional Patent Applications which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and made part of the present U.S. Utility Patent Application for all purposes:

1. U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/490,967, “LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) coded modulation symbol decoding,” (Attorney Docket No. ~~BP3089~~), filed July 29, 2003 (07/29/2003), pending.

2. U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/519,457, “LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) coded modulation hybrid decoding,” (Attorney Docket No. ~~BP3134~~), filed November 12, 2003 (11/12/2003), pending.

The present U.S. Utility Patent Application also claims priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the following U.S. Utility Patent Application which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety and made part of the present U.S. Utility Patent Application for all purposes:

1. U.S. Utility Application Serial No. 10/668,526, entitled “LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) coded modulation symbol decoding,” (Attorney Docket No. ~~BP3089~~), filed September 23, 2003 (09/23/2003), pending, which claims priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/490,967, “LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) coded modulation symbol decoding,” (Attorney Docket No. ~~BP3089~~), filed July 29, 2003 (07/29/2003), pending.”

On page 31, line 15 to line 22, please amend as follows:

“An irregular LDPC code may also be described using a bipartite graph. However, the degree of each set of nodes within an irregular LDPC code may be chosen according to some distribution. Therefore, for two different variable nodes, v_i